

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, ID

SUBJECT: GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN-NO. 4

REF: JAKARTA 3561

SUMMARY: MIDPOINT OF 1977 ELECTION CAMPAIGN PASSED WITH INCREASED POLITICAL ACTIVITY NOTED IN FORM OF POSTERS, NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, SPEECHES AND RALLIES. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SEEM REASONABLY SATISFIED WITH MANNER IN WHICH CAMPAIGN IS PROCEEDING. RELIGIOUS ISSUE STILL MAJOR POLITICAL TOPIC, BUT CAMPAIGN HAS HAD CONSTRUCTIVE INFLUENCE AS PRESIDENT ORDERS OFFICIALS TO PAY THEIR TAXES AND STUDENTS ADVOCATE ANTI-ILLITERACY PROGRAM.

1. AS ELECTION CAMPAIGN PERIOD PASSED MIDPOINT, POLITICAL ACTIVITY OF VARIOUS KINDS CONTINUED TO INCREASE WITHOUT SERIOUS DISTURBANCES OF PUBLIC ORDER. POSTERS WERE STILL GOING UP, WITH PDI MAKING STRONG EFFORTS TO NARROW GRAPHICS GAP BETWEEN IT AND OTHER TWO PARTIES. MEDAN PDI CHAIRMAN CLAIMED 25,000 PDI SIGNS DISAPPEARED IN ONE NIGHT FROM MEDAN STREETS, ILLUSTRATING MAGNITUDE OF PARTY'S BILL-POSTING. SECOND GENERATION OF POSTERS BEARING SLOGANS AS WELL AS PARTY SYMBOLS HAS MADE APPEARANCE. PPP
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SIGNS CARRY STATEMENT THAT ELECTION IS FREE AND SECRET, AND VOTERS CANNOT BE FORCED OR PRESSURED BY ANYONE. PDI POSTERS FEATURE NAMES AND SYMBOLS OF FIVE OLD PARTIES WHICH MAKE UP PDI (PNI, PARTAI KATOLIK, PARKINDO, MURBA, AND IPKI), OR CALL PDI "UPHOLDER OF JUSTICE" AND "PROTECTOR OF THE PEOPLE." GOLKAR THEME IS "ONCE GOLKAR, ALWAYS GOLKAR."

2. SPEECH-MAKING IS ON INCREASE EVERYWHERE. GOLKAR HEAVYWEIGHTS LIKE SULTAN HAMENGKUKUWONO IX, ADAM MALIK, MASHURI, EMIL SALIM, AND MOCHTAR KUSMAATMADJA ARE NOW CAMPAIGNING IN PROVINCES. MALIK TOLD CROWDS IN NORTH SUMATRA THAT GOLKAR WOULD PROTECT ALL CITIZENS OF FOREIGN DESCENT AS LONG AS THEY WERE LOYAL TO INDONESIA. PARTY RALLIES ATTENDED BY 100,000 ARE NOW COMMONPLACE IN JAKARTA, WITH MANY HIGHER TOTALS CLAIMED. CERTAIN NEWSPAPERS ARE CONCENTRATING MORE AND MORE ON ELECTION COVERAGE AND SUPPORT TO INDIVIDUAL PARTIES THROUGH HEADLINES, PHOTOS AND FEATURE ARTICLES. MERDEKA AND PELITA HAVE BEEN WARNED BY ADMIRAL SUDOMO NOT TO PRINT UNPROVEN REPORTS OF CAMPAIGN ABUSES.

3. INTERIOR MINISTER AMIRMACHMUD PROMISED MARCH 23 THAT ALL VOTES WILL BE COUNTED IN PRESENCE OR REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THREE PARTIES, AND WHERE THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE PROMINENT LOCAL CITIZENS WILL BE ASKED TO SERVE AS WITNESSES. THIS, HE SAID, SHOULD ELIMINATE ANY FEARS OF FALSE ELECTION RETURN. ADMIRAL SUDOMO MADE SEVERAL PUBLIC STATEMENTS. HE OBSERVED THAT NO ONE SHOULD FEAR KOPKAMTIB, POINTING OUT THAT NO MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT OR A POLITICAL PARTY HAS BEEN ARRESTED FOR SPEECHES MADE DURING THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN. HE NOTED THAT TWO ULAMAS WERE DETAINED IN CENTRAL JAVA (REFTEL) FOR ISLAMIC EXTREMIST ACTIVITY, NOT FOR PPP CAMPAIGNING. SUDOMO CHARACTERIZED FIRST MONTH OF CAMPAIGN AS STEADY AND DYNAMIC, AND SAID LEVEL OF INCIDENTS AND VIOLATIONS WHICH HAD OCCURRED WAS STILL TOLERABLE. IN JAKARTA, GOVERNOR ALI SADIKIN TERMED ELECTION CAMPAIGN ORDERLY AND SMOOTH.

4. RELIGIOUS ISSUE CONTINUED TO DOMINATE CAMPAIGN RHETORIC. ONE MUSLIM LEADER TOLD GOLKAR RALLY IN JAKARTA THAT IT WAS SIN TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PUCH KA'BAH SYMBOL, A LINE HOTLY DENIED BY PPP SPEAKERS. JAVANCES MYSTICISM HAS BEEN EVOKED, TOO, AS BANYAN TREE (GOLKAR'S SYMBOL) IN PURWOKERTO COLLAPSED AND KILLED SEVEN PDI RALLY WATCHERS.

5. RESPONDING TO CRITICISM RAISED DURING CAMPAIGN THAT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INCLUDING CANDIDATES HAVE MADE COMMERCIAL CAPITAL OF THEIR POSITIONS, PRESIDENT SUHARTO ORDERED ALL CIVILIAN AND MILITARY OFFICIALS TO FILE INCOME AND PROPERTY TAX RETURNS BY APRIL 30 OR FACE DISCIPLINARY ACTION. PRIOR TO PRESIDENT'S ACTION MANY OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY IGNORED TAX REQUIREMENT OR FILED FALSE RETURNS. COMMENT: WE HAVE HEARD THAT GOLKAR CANDIDATES IN CENTRAL JAVA HAVE BEEN QUESTIONED REGARDING THEIR PERSONAL WEALTH.

6. "ANTI-IGNORANCE MOVEMENT" FORMED BY 22 COLLEGE STUDENT COUNCILS IN WEST JAVA SENT PETITION TO MINISTER OF EDUCATION CALLING FOR INCREASE IN EDUCATION SHARE OF NATIONAL BUDGET FROM 12 PERCENT TO 25 PERCENT FOR 1977-82. STUDENTS EXPRESSED HOPE THAT RAISING ISSUE DURING CAMPAIGN WILL INDUCE POLITICAL

PARTIES TO TAKE IT UP AND ADD IT TO NEXT SET OF GUIDELINES OF
STATE POLICY IN 1978. COMMENT: ACTIVIST BANDUNG STUDENT
ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH HAVE BEEN GENERALLY CRITICAL OF GOVERN-
MENT, HAVE APPARENTLY SEIZED THIS ISSUE, A VALID ONE, AS MEANS
OF ENTERING CAMPAIGN DISCUSSIONS.

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